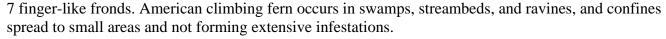
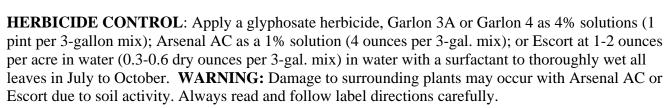
**PLANT:** Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*) is a climbing and twining perennial vine.

**IDENTIFICATION:** Lacy finely-divided leaves along green to orange to black wiry vines to 90 ft. long. Stem slender but difficult to break. Twining and climbing, wiry, green to straw-colored or reddish, mostly deciduous in late winter. Fertile fronds, usually smaller segments with fingerlike projections around the margins bearing spore producing dots, in double rows under margins. Seeds are tiny spores dispersed by the wind.

**ECOLOGY:** Spreads along highway rights-of-way (preferring under and around bridges) and invades into open forests, forest road edges, and stream and swamp margins. Scattered in open timber stands and plantations, it can quickly increase in cover to form mats, covering shrubs and trees. Deciduous in winter, while dead vines provide lattice for new growth.

Resembles American climbing fern (native) and Old World climbing fern (only in Florida) but have palmately lobed 5-





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Source: Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests, James Miller, 2004 Photo Credit: James R. Allison, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, www.forestryimages.org

